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Chairmen Maynard and Guerrera and Members of the Transportation Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for raising **Bill number HB5461, An Act Concerning the Certificate of Title for Older Model Motor Vehicles**. I testify today in enthusiastic support of this bill.

In my spare time I enjoy tinkering with old cars and my wife and I own several vehicles in excess of 25 years of age. These vehicles were all purchased used and came with titles at the time of purchase. Each and every one of these vehicles are currently registered and licensed in our State. At the time of registration, all vehicles had the required VIN checks, sales tax was paid and all registration fees and property taxes are faithfully paid for each vehicle. Recently I attempted to sell two of my old cars and found that I was unable to do so because of a little known, but significant problem - the fact that our DMV will not issue a title on a car older than 20 years of age.

In lieu of a title, our DMV requires the seller to complete a Form Q-1 (attached). This is intended to take the place of a valid title at the time of sale. Unfortunately almost no other state will accept a Connecticut Q-1 Form as valid documentation for motor vehicle registration and subsequent generation of a title. As you can see, there is nothing "official" about the Q-1 Form which is simply completed by the seller and the Q-1 provides a buyer no assurance whatsoever about whether the vehicle would have a "clear" title.

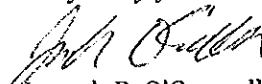
I had two prospective buyers for the cars I wished to sell. One buyer was actually a Connecticut resident but his lender refused to provide financing without a valid title. (Please note that the Q-1 Form provides no assurance that the vehicle comes without liens or encumbrances). The second potential buyer actually went to the North Carolina DMV on three occasions and was told that no title would be registered without a valid Connecticut title.

There are only 3 states in the Union that do not issue titles on old cars, Connecticut, Maine and Georgia. With the advent of internet advertising, most old cars are sold to out of state buyers and the sale is literally impossible without a title. Would you purchase a vehicle without a title? Any claim that the Q-1 is a valid substitute for a title is unfortunately incorrect.

I am more than happy to pay the fees that generation of a title would require and I'm confident that the thousands of other Connecticut residents who own old cars would also do so.

I sincerely thank you for consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,


Joseph B. O'Connell, M.D.

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